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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Date of Deposit: April 14, 2004

Applicant(s): T. YOKOYAMA et al

Serial No. : Not yet assigned

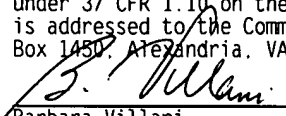
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Barbara Villani

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are maintained; claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are amended; and claims 8-20 are added.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.